

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated July 8, 2002, the Examiner requested a substitute specification. Applicants have provided a clean version-substitute specification, including claims, in Exhibit A. The substitute specification includes all changes made during the PCT phase of the present application and the amendments to the claims submitted with the preliminary amendment filed on June 8, 2001. In addition, paragraph numbers have been added. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification does not include new matter.

Claim 9 is amended to remove the phrase "means of." This amendment is not intended to narrow the scope of any limitation recited therein.

Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 10, 2001.

Based on the above substitute specification and the following remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all outstanding objections.

Claim Objections

On page 2 of the Office Action dated July 8, 2002, claims 1-12 were objected to for having informalities. Applicants have provided a Substitute Specification to overcome this objection. No amendments have been made to narrow the scope of any limitation.

Please note that reference numbers have been retained in the claims, but have no affect on claim scope. See MPEP §608.01(m).

No claim rejections based on prior art or §112 were made in the Office Action. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

If applicants have not accounted for any fees required by this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If applicants have not accounted for a required extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, that extension is requested and the corresponding fee should be charged to our Deposit Account.

The Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned at (202) 672-5592, if there is anything the undersigned can do to assist the Examiner or expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 8, 2002

By

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